

REMARKS

Summary of the Amendment

Upon entry of the above amendment, Claim 30 will have been amended. Accordingly, Claims 30-37, 40-44 and 47-49 remain currently pending. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant submits that each of the pending claims is allowable over the cited art, and an indication of allowability of the present application is therefore respectfully requested.

Summary of the Office Action

In the subject Office Action, Claims 30-37 are objected to due to formal matters; Claims 30 and 31 are rejected as being anticipated over the art of record; Claims 32-37 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; and Claims 40-44 and 47-49 are allowed.

Acknowledgement of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that Claims 40-44 and 47-49 are allowed. Moreover, Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that Claims 32-37 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Telephone Interview with Examiner Loke

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the courtesy extended to their representative by Examiner Loke in a telephone interview conducted on October 19, 2004.

In the interview, the Applicant's representative first discussed a proposed amendment to overcome the pending objection to Claims 30-37, and in particular independent Claim 30. The Applicant proposed to add --a-- before the term "top surface" in the second line of Claim 30, delete the phrase "exposed in and substantially flush" from line 12, and further add --coplanar-- before the phrase "with an exterior surface" in line 13. Examiner Loke agreed that the aforementioned proposed amendment would overcome the objection if submitted in a suitable response to the outstanding Office Action.

On the merits of the pending rejection of Claims 30 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), Applicant's representative pointed out to Examiner Loke that Claim 30 as amended recites, *inter alia*, . . . An encapsulant material encapsulating the die, . . . and at least a portion of each of the leads *such that the second surface of each of the leads is generally co-planar with an exterior surface of the encapsulant material*. Furthermore, Applicant's representative submitted that in Figures 3 and 4 of GLENN, the leads 1-8 are entirely covered by encapsulant 18 except for the portions of the leads 1-8 which protrude in almost a normal orientation from the respective opposed sides of the package 110. The Examiner agreed with the Applicant's argument, but said that even if the pending rejection of Claims 30 and 31 has been overcome, that another search focused on the aforementioned features of the present invention would be required.

Furthermore, Examiner Loke said that he would not enter the proposed Amendment since the case was After-Final. Applicant's representative proposed that an RCE be filed such that the amendment to overcome the formal matters could be entered and so that the Examiner could perform another search focused on the features of amended Claim 30.

Objection to the Claims

Claims 30-37 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In Claim 30, line 2, the Examiner submits that the phrase "top surface" is unclear with regard to whether it is being referred to as "a top surface." The Examiner has requested appropriate correction.

As proposed in the interview, Applicant has amended independent Claim 30 by adding --a-- before the term "top surface" in the second line of Claim 30, deleting the phrase "exposed in and substantially flush" from line 12, and by further adding --co-planar-- before the phrase "with an exterior surface" in line 13. The foregoing amendment is believed to overcome the Examiner's objection.

It is noted that the aforementioned amendment made in this response has not been made to specifically overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, and therefore, it should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Accordingly, in view of the aforementioned comments and amendment to Claim 30, Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to Claim 30.

Traversal of Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 30 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,566,164 to Glenn et al. [hereinafter "GLENN"].

In regard to Claim 30, the Examiner submits that GLENN shows all of the elements claimed in the invention in Figures 3-4. The Examiner submits that GLENN teaches a semiconductor package, comprising: a die 14 having a bottom surface and a top surface; a die pad 20 having first and second surfaces, the bottom surface of the die 14 being mounted to the first surface of the die pad 20; a plurality of leads 1-8, each of the leads having first and second surfaces, at least some of the leads 5-8 being integrally connected to the die pad 20; a conductive strap 112 being electrically connected to and extending between the top surface of the die 14 and the first surface of at least one of the leads 1-3 which is not integrally connected to the die pad 20; and an encapsulant material 18 encapsulating the die, at least a portion of the die pad, at least a portion of the conductive strap, and at least a portion of each of the leads such that the second surface (bottom surface) of each of the leads is exposed in and substantially flush with an exterior surface of the encapsulant material. In response to Applicant's remarks submitted in the last Office Action filed June 9, 2004, the Examiner submits that Figure 4 of GLENN discloses the bottom surface of each of the leads 1-8 exposed in and substantially flush[es] with an exterior surface of the encapsulant material 18. The Examiner further contends that the bottom surface of each of the leads 1-8 and the exterior surface of the encapsulant 18 are exposed to the outside environment, and that therefore, GLENN meets all of the limitations of the claimed invention as recited in Claim 30.

Independent Claim 30

Applicant's claim 30 as amended recites, *inter alia*, . . . An encapsulant material encapsulating the die, . . . and at least a portion of each of the leads *such that the second*

surface of each of the leads is generally co-planar with an exterior surface of the encapsulant material.

In comparison, GLENN does not teach at least the aforementioned features recited in Claim 30. As shown in Figures 3 and 4, the leads 1-8 are entirely covered by encapsulant 18 except for the portions of the leads 1-8 which protrude *at almost a normal orientation* from the respective opposed sides of the package 110. Hence, GLENN does not anticipate the invention recited in Claim 30 since GLENN does not teach, *inter alia*, wherein the second surface of each of the leads is generally co-planar with an exterior surface of encapsulant material.

For the foregoing reasons, and because GLENN fails to disclose the above-noted features of the present invention, Applicant submits that GLENN fails to disclose each and every recited feature of the present invention as recited in independent Claim 30.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to provide adequate evidentiary basis to support a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and that the present rejection of independent Claim 30 is improper and should be withdrawn.

Dependent Claim 31

Applicant further submits that dependent Claim 31 is allowable at least for the reason that this claim depends from allowable independent Claim 30 and because Claim 31 recites additional features that further define the present invention. In particular, Applicant submits that GLENN fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, wherein a portion of the conductive strap is exposed in the encapsulant material in combination with the features of Claim 30.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to provide an adequate evidentiary basis to support a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and that the present rejection of Claim 31 is improper and should be withdrawn.

Application is Allowable

Applicant respectfully submits that each and every pending claim of the present invention meets the requirements for patentability under 35 U.S.C. §§112, 102 and 103 and respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate the allowance of such claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that none of the references of record, anticipate or render obvious Applicant's invention as recited in Claims 30-37, 40-44 and 47-49. The applied references of record have been discussed and distinguished, while significant claimed features of the present invention have been pointed out. Upon an allowance of amended Claim 30, Applicant respectfully requests that withdrawn Claims 38 and 39 be reinstated by the Examiner due to their dependency on Claim 30.

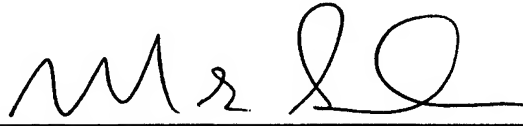
Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein is respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 19-4330.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11/1/04

By:



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